

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A capacitance type sensor comprising:

a detective member,

a first electrode being opposite to the detective member,

5 a second electrode arranged between the detective member and the first electrode and constituting capacitance elements with the first electrode, the second electrode being displaceable in a same direction as the detective member when the detective member is displaced,

one or more first switching electrodes being opposite to the detective member, and

one or more second switching electrodes arranged between the detective member and the first switching electrode(s) in such a relation as to be opposite to the first switching electrode(s) and also spaced apart from the first switching electrode(s), the second switching electrodes being

15 contactable with the first switching electrode(s) increasingly with displacement of the detective member,

wherein the first and second switching electrodes are arranged to overlap with the first and second electrodes with respect to a displacement direction of the detecting member, and

20 wherein the capacitance type sensor is capable of recognizing the displacement of the detective member on the basis of a detection, using a signal input to the first electrode, of a change in capacitance value of the capacitance element caused by a change in distance between the first electrode and the second electrode.

25 2. The capacitance type sensor according to Claim 1, which further

comprises:

a first substrate disposed on the side opposite to the second electrode with respect to the first electrode and having the first electrode on its surface,

5 a second substrate disposed on the side opposite to the first electrode with respect to the second electrode and having the second electrode on its surface,

a first switching substrate disposed on the side opposite to the second switching electrode(s) with respect to the first switching electrode(s) and
10 having the first switching electrode(s) on its surface, and

a second switching substrate disposed on the side opposite to the first switching electrode(s) with respect to the second switching electrode(s) and having the second switching electrode(s) on its surface.

3. The capacitance type sensor according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the
15 first substrate, the second substrate, the first switching substrate and the second switching substrate are formed by a single common substrate having flexibility.

4. The capacitance type sensor according to Claim 3, wherein the first electrode, the second electrode, the first switching electrode, and the second
20 switching electrode are all arranged on one side of the common substrate.

5. The capacitance type sensor according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the first and second switching electrodes are disposed to be closer to the detective member than the first and second electrodes.

6. The capacitance type sensor according to any one of Claims 1 to 5,
25 wherein there are provided two or more groups of the first and second

electrodes or two or more groups of the first and second switching electrodes.